

REMARKS

The present application includes claims 1-19 and 21-24. Claims 1-19 and 21-24 were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 11 have been amended, and claims 21 and 24 have been cancelled. Claims 2 and 12 were previously presented. Claim 20 was previously cancelled.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thiede et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,006,498).

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 17, 19, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hansson (U.S. Patent No. 5,568,362).

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 17, 19, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson.

Claims 2 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Ehrenfels (U.S. Patent No. 5,239,129).

Claims 5 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Nelson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,061,966).

Claims 8, 10, 16, 18, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of English et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,067,233).

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Thiede.

Claims 21 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Erickson (U.S. Patent No. 3,659,319).

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thiede.

Thiede “relates to a cover for an air conditioner and is concerned primarily with a cover designed to afford adequate protection for the air conditioner during periods of nonuse, but which may be readily operated or shifted into an open position during those periods when the air conditioner is in use” (col. 1, ll. 9-14). “An air conditioner is, of course, used only during the warmer seasons; yet, as a practical matter they remain installed the entire year around. Thus during periods of nonuse there is no protection for the outwardly projection portion, and there is danger of dirt, rain, sleet, or other foreign matter entering into the air ports” (col. 1, ll. 22-27). If cables enter or exit air conditioner cover C through an opening defined by top wall 10, columns 12, 13, and bottom crosspiece 33, as alleged by the Examiner, protective panel P would not close completely, thereby exposing the air conditioner to the environment and otherwise rendering it unprotected.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “the front section [of the wall mount cabinet] having a D-ring secured thereon, the D-ring adapted to enclose the plurality of cables.” Thiede describes protective panel P. Thiede does not teach or suggest “the front section [of the wall mount cabinet] having a D-ring secured thereon, the D-ring adapted to enclose the plurality of cables,” as recited in claim 1. Protective panel P does not include a D-ring. Moreover, Thiede does not contemplate cables entering or exiting air conditioner cover C, let alone a D-ring or any other structure for managing cables that were not otherwise contemplated.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thiede has been overcome, and that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1. As described above, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thiede has been overcome, and that claim 3 is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thiede has been overcome, and that claims 1 and 3 are in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejections of claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 17, 19, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hansson and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson.

Hansson “relates to a cabinet for housing electronic equipment for process control and monitoring of machines or power tools for performing operations” (col. 1, ll. 9-11). The cabinet includes a central casing 10 and a backdoor 13 (fig. 2). The central casing 10 includes a connector chamber 16 (fig. 2). “All cables 18 enter the connector chamber 16 via openings 20 at the lower edge 22 of the back door 13 and are secured to a tie bracket 23 mounted inside the central casing 10” (col. 2, ll. 11-14). “Due to the fact that the cable openings 20 are small enough just to let through the cables 18, and that the cables 18 are secured to the tie bracket 23 in the central casing 10, it is not possible to disconnect the connector plugs 19 without opening the backdoor 13” (col. 2, ll. 25-29).

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite “the front section [of the wall mount cabinet] having a D-ring secured thereon, the D-ring adapted to enclose the plurality of cables.” Hansson describes tie bracket 23 mounted inside central casing 10. Hansson does not teach or suggest “the front section [of the wall mount cabinet] having a D-ring secured thereon, the D-ring adapted to enclose the plurality of cables,” as recited in claims 1 and 11. Tie bracket 23 is not a D-ring.

Moreover, Hansson teaches away from a D-ring. That is, replacing tie bracket 23 with a D-ring would not sufficiently secure cables 18 to prevent the possibility of disconnecting connector plugs 19 without opening backdoor 13.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hansson and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson have been overcome, and that claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 14, 17, 19, and 23 depend from claims 1 or 11. As described above, claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 14, 17, 19, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hansson and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson have been overcome, and that claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 14, 17, 19, and 23 are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 17, 19, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hansson and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson have been overcome, and that claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 17, 19, and 23 are in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Ehrenfels.

Ehrenfels relates to a housing for a switched electrical receptacle or the like. However, Ehrenfels does not overcome the shortcomings of Hansson. Specifically, Ehrenfels does not teach or suggest “the front section [of the wall mount cabinet] having a D-ring secured thereon, the D-ring adapted to enclose the plurality of cables,” as recited in claims 1 and 11. Moreover, a combination of Hansson and Ehrenfels similarly fails to teach or suggest “the front section [of the wall mount

cabinet] having a D-ring secured thereon, the D-ring adapted to enclose the plurality of cables,” as recited in claims 1 and 11.

Claims 2 and 12 depend from claims 1 and 11, respectively. As described above, claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Ehrenfels has been overcome, and that claims 2 and 12 are in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 5 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Nelson.

Nelson relates to an electric cabinet having a door stop. However, Nelson does not overcome the shortcomings of Hansson. Specifically, Nelson does not teach or suggest “the front section [of the wall mount cabinet] having a D-ring secured thereon, the D-ring adapted to enclose the plurality of cables,” as recited in claims 1 and 11. Moreover, a combination of Hansson and Nelson similarly fails to teach or suggest “the front section [of the wall mount cabinet] having a D-ring secured thereon, the D-ring adapted to enclose the plurality of cables,” as recited in claims 1 and 11.

Claims 5 and 15 depend from claims 1 and 11, respectively. As described above, claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 5 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Nelson has been overcome, and that claims 5 and 15 are in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 8, 10, 16, 18, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of English.

English relates to a mounting brace and cable management apparatus and method. However, English does not overcome the shortcomings of Hansson. Specifically, English does not teach or suggest “the front section [of the wall mount cabinet] having a D-ring secured thereon, the D-ring adapted to enclose the plurality of cables,” as recited in claims 1 and 11. Moreover, a combination of Hansson and English similarly fails to teach or suggest “the front section [of the wall mount cabinet] having a D-ring secured thereon, the D-ring adapted to enclose the plurality of cables,” as recited in claims 1 and 11.

Claims 8, 10, 16, 18, and 22 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1 or 11. As described above, claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 8, 10, 16, 18, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of English has been overcome, and that claims 8, 10, 16, 18, and 22 are in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Thiede.

As described above, none of Hansson, Thiede, and a combination of Hansson and Thiede teaches or suggests “the front section [of the wall mount cabinet] having a D-ring secured thereon, the D-ring adapted to enclose the plurality of cables,” as recited in claim 11.

Claim 13 depends from claim 11. As described above, claim 11 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Thiede has been overcome, and that claim 13 is in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Erickson. Claims 21 and 24 have been cancelled. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Erickson is moot.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-19 and 22-23 are in condition for allowance.

In a telephone interview on Thursday, October 18, 2007, Examiner Hansen indicated that Examiner Gabler is no longer with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and that the present application has been reassigned to him. Accordingly, the Reply to Office Action is addressed to his attention. The Applicants would like to thank Examiner Hansen for his time and effort, and appreciate his suggestions with regard to the present application, which are reflected in the preceding amendments and remarks.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicants may be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Attorney for Applicants at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 16-0228.

Respectfully submitted,

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